

Abstract

The present invention relates to methods and devices for the detection of coliform and for the detection and confirmation of *E. coli*. In particular, the methods comprises contacting a sample so as to allow any coliform present in the sample to access a growth encouraging medium, incubating the sample at a temperature of at least 37 degrees C so as to support growth of any coliform that may be present and for a time sufficient to allow growth that can be detected by a fluorogen or chromagen present in the medium, and inspecting the sample for a signal. Also disclosed are a novel antibiotic-free medium and devices containing this medium, both useful in the present methods.